

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 /059 W  
----- 050048

R 160911Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3515

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: FUNERAL OF LI FU-CHUN: MIXED SIGNS

1. THE FUNERAL OF VICE PREMIER LI FU-CHUN BROUGHT OUT PEKING'S TOP LEADERSHIP (NCNA JANUARY 15) BUT NOTABLE ABSENCES AMONG THOSE PRESENT FOR THE SERVICES WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY THAT CHINA'S LEADERSHIP HAS NOT ASSEMBLED IN THE CAPITAL FOR THE LONG-AWAITED NPC. ALTHOUGH THEY SENT WREATHS, CHAIRMAN MAO AND ALL POLITBURO MEMBERS PRIMARILY BASED IN THE PROVINCES FAILED TO APPEAR AT THE FUNERAL. PROBABLY ADDING TO NPC-FEVER AMONG CHINA WATCHERS, HOWEVER, TENG HSIAO-PING'S EULOGY MENTIONED THAT LI WAS A DELEGATE TO THE FOURTH NPC, THE FIRST PUBLIC OFFICIAL MENTION OF A NAMED DELEGATE, ALTHOUGH TENG HAD STATED EARLIER THAT DELEGATES HAD BEEN SELECTED (1974 HONG KONG 13237).

2. LI'S FUNERAL WAS PRESIDED OVER BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI, WHO MADE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL SINCE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEPTEMBER 30 BANQUET FOR NATIONAL DAY. OTHER REGULARLY ACTIVE

POLITBURO MEMBERS ALSO TURNED OUT AND WERE LISTED IN RANK ORDER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LARGE TURNOUT SINCE OCTOBER 1. (REAPPEARANCE OF POLITBURO ATTENDEES IN THEIR CUSTOMARY RANKING SCOTCHES EARLIER CONSIDERATION THAT STROKE ORDER LISTINGS FOR THE LAST TWO LARGE TURNOUTS SIGNALLED AN UPCOMING CHANGE IN THE LINEUP.) THE FUNERAL STORY ALSO PROVIDED A NEW WRINKLE WITH SPECIAL PROMINENCE GIVEN TO LI'S WIFE, TSAI CHANG, AND MENTION FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION OF THE ALL CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION WHICH SHE CHAIRED SINCE ITS FOUNDING.

3. THE FOUR ATTENDEES UNDER THE PLA "GENERAL DEPARTMENTS" LISTING WERE HEADED BY YANG CHENG-WU WITH NO OTHER DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF PRESENT UNDER THAT LISTING. VETERAN GENERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (GPD) DEPUTY DIRECTOR LIANG PI-YEH (2733/1801/2814) WHO WAS PURGED EARLY IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND REHABILITATED ON MAY DAY 1973, APPARENTLY RESUMED HIS OLD OFFICE AND WAS RANKED SECOND IN THE MILITARY TURNOUT ABOVE CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED DEPUTY DIRECTOR WEI PO-TING. THE TWO RECENTLY INACTIVE VICE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE (SU YU AND HSIAO CHING-KUANG) REAPPEARED IN THE GROUP OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE ATTENDEES AS DID FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI, WHO MADE HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE HIS REPLACEMENT BY CHIAO KUAN-HUA IN NOVEMBER 1974 (1974 HONG KONG 12458).  
CROSS

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